ROAD and FARM IMPROVEMENT

THE ROAD AND THE TRAFFIC

Should Highways Accommodate All Traffic or Should the Latter Be Restricted to Certain Vehicles?

Whether the road should be constructed to accommodate the traffic or whether the traffic should be restricted to meet the limitations of the road is a subject which is being discussed with considerable interest by many who have interests at stake.

It is contended by some that as the roads belong to the people they should be free to the public for whatever traffic is placed upon them. In the United States, as elsewhere, the fast speeding automobile becomes a factor in road destruction. In some parts of England and in France and some other places the traction engine, pulling heavy freight trains, limit the life of a stone road. In some of the countries of southern Europe trolley lines with heavy cars built to run on the roadway without tracks are in full operation.

These naturally destroy the roadway and make the upkeep expensive. Some taxpayers argue that the speeders and the freighters and the trolley companies are getting something for nothing; that the property of the public is being given for the use of private interests, and that if those interests want roads for their unusual traffic they should buy a right of way and construct their own roads.

On the other hand is the contention that the building of roads is an engineering proposition pure and simple; that the character of the traffic is and has always been subject to change; that it has changed many times within the history of road building, and that if the present roadways will not stand up under the new traffic conditions it is the business of the highway engineers to build better ones; in other words, that the roads must keep up to the requirements of the traffic.

While the discussion is going on the engineers are constantly studying the problems presented and constructing better roads.

CO-OPERATION IN ROAD WORK

No Form of Public Undertaking Offers Better Opportunities For All to Help.

There is no sort of public work in which folks are interested generally where the principle of co-operation could be followed to better advantage than in the care of the public highways. In some sections this fact seems to be recognized, in some others not.

Especially is there need of this co-operation in those sections where earth roads are the rule and where the character of the soil is such that there is need of working it at a critical time, following heavy rains or wet seasons. Particularly is this true of stiff clay or adobe soils, which can be advantageously worked and leveled only when they possess the proper amount of moisture and the right consistency.

Under such conditions it is impossible for one road superintendent and his helpers to give all the road of their territory treatment at the proper time. As a result many such highways dry up rough and hard and remain in this condition for months. Could a system have been followed which would have enlisted the aid of property owners or renters along the highways and the roads have been dragged at the proper time a good highway would have been secured.

The benefit of this co-operative system is recognized in some states, the road tax being remitted in case property owners give a stipulated amount of aid in keeping in condition the roads abutting their own premises. This plan gives excellent results and should be adopted in other places where the roads at certain seasons of the year are little short of unspeakable, yet for the attempt to keep which in repair large sums are expended annually, but to little purpose.

MARKETING LAMBS.

The Best Time to Sell Them Is When They Have Reached a Weight of Eighty Pounds.

The best time to market lambs is when they are of the size and weight and finish which are most desired. On the general market lambs that are matured to good finish at eighty pounds weight are the best sellers. This finish and weight will be attained at different ages, depending upon the care and feed that are dealt to the lambs.

Spring lambs first appearing on the market weigh little more than sixty pounds, but if they have the quality and the finish they easily command top prices. During the summer months consumers of mutton desire small cuts because they do not eat much meat during the warm weather. This gives rise to a strong demand for lambs ranging in weight from sixty-five to seventy pounds.

There is no particular season that is best for selling lambs, as the market varies at the different seasons subject to conditions that are at times difficult to account for. There is never a time, however, when lambs weighing eighty pounds will not sell as prime, provided they are prime in form, quality and condition.

RAISING GOOD CELERY.

Practical Methods Which Must Be Observed In Cultivating a Profitable Crop.

Early in spring prepare a cold frame, in which sow the celery seed very thin in rows.

When an inch high thin the plants to an inch apart. About the 1st of June prepare ground by making a trench ten inches deep and one foot wide with sloping banks.

Remove all soil from trench and in bottom put thin layer of henhouse droppings. Cover with good, rich soil three inches deep. If plants are large cut off the long leaves. Plant in the row six to eight inches apart.

If the weather is extremely warm cover the trench for a few days with boards.

Cultivate the plants by drawing the dirt to them as they grow until the 1st of August. If necessary to irrigate put straw on each side the trench and pour water on this to prevent soil from hardening on the plants.

Never hill the plants when the ground is hot and dry, but rather when damp and cool, to prevent rust.

The 1st of September bank the plants for bleaching by covering with dirt loosely over the top of the plants. As winter approaches cover with dirt, over which put a top dressing of raw stable manure to prevent freezing.

Raise White Plume for early and Giant Pascal for late. Any one treating celery in this manner will be successful.

INEXPENSIVE TABLES.

Can Be Made of Grocery Boxes Covered With Oilcloth to Give Neat Appearance.

These two illustrations show ways of making very convenient and serviceable kitchen tables by using cheap store boxes. If possible procure dry goods boxes made of good, smooth wood, but if only the rougher grocery boxes are to be had they can be utilized by covering over with oilcloth after the table is completed.

To make the table as in the top figure use two boxes alike, each about 15 by 18 inches and two and one-half

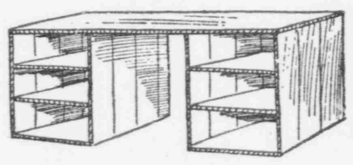


Table No. I.

feet long; stand on end about two feet apart and cover with a single wide board. Nail cleats inside boxes and put in shelves at distances apart to suit the purpose. Doors can be made of wood from similar boxes and hung at each of the three compartments, or rod and curtains may be used. A rack can be put at the back to hang towels on. The middle compartment can be used for kettles, etc., and a few nails or hooks placed for hanging long handled articles.

Cover the top of the table with a sheet of zinc or a white oilcloth and paint or varnish the sides or cover with fancy figured oilcloth pasted on with smooth starch paste. The table in the proportions illustrated would be about two and one-half feet long. It could be made shorter by using nar-

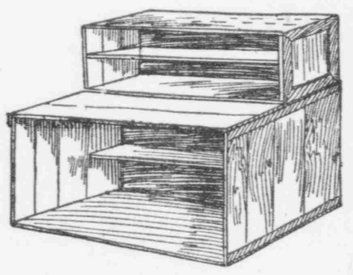


Table No. II.

rower boxes or by having boxes set closer together and still be of convenient size.

To make a table as shown in the lower figure use a large dry goods box about three feet long, two and one-half feet wide and two and one-half or two and three-fourths feet deep. Lay on side, putting in a shelf about one or one and one-half feet wide halfway up the back. Lay another box, same length if possible, on top of the table next to the wall, this box being ten or twelve inches deep and with a shelf, as in the larger box.

FARM NOTES

Stingy manuring does not pay.

Is the harness tied up with string anywhere? Take it off and do the best job by repairing you ever did.

A pound or two of nails will make the fences all tight and save loss and hard feeling between neighbors.

Get out some stuff for whiffletrees. Keep a little on hand all the time, for you may need them before you know it.

Have a bottle of rubber cement on hand and some good glue. Fix things, and do it while the other work is not pressing.

Holes in grain sacks can be patched by shaking out the dust and pasting a piece of the same material on the inside of the opening.

Sifted coal ashes, wheat flour and sand mixed with water make an excellent mortar for patching holes where plaster is broken.

CONSIDERATE.

The Thoughtful Host Desired to Spare His Guest the "Unpleasant Little Detail."

Two friends, one a prosperous looking business man and the other at least well dressed, chanced to meet not long ago, and the second gentleman remembered that it was his turn to "buy the dinner," so they were soon repairing to a fashionable restaurant. Their orders were generous, and they lingered long over the good things, not forgetting cigars at the end.

When they felt that they really had to leave or else pay rent the host showed a bit of fidgetiness and requested that the other go outside and wait for him; that there was an "unpleasant little detail" he wished to discuss with the proprietor and could not think of embarrassing his friend by having him overhear it. The friend did as requested, stepping outside and waiting at the nearest corner.

He had been waiting only about five minutes when of a sudden the door of the restaurant flew open, and his erstwhile host shot through it as from a catapult, followed by some most uncomplimentary terms.

"What's wrong?" was the first inquiry of the waiting friend.

"Oh, nothing much," was the answer, "except that the 'unpleasant little detail' I had to discuss with the proprietor was that I had no money to pay for the dinners."—Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

A FAMOUS GOOSE.

Peter, the Pet of the English Coldstream Guards.

Possibly the most remarkable creature ever attached to a regiment was Peter, the ever famous goose of the Coldstream guards. This curious pet was presented to the Coldstreamers when they were in Canada by the late Hon. Adolphus Graves, and soon it acquired a fame which eclipsed that of all rivals in the way of pets in the army.

When the guard was mounted of a morning Peter always marched off with them. It is recorded that one night the goose saved a sentry's life by flying in the face of a rebel who was just going to fire at the soldier. Peter's timely aid disconcerted the rebel, who fired at random. The sentry immediately responded by shooting the rebel dead.

When the guards came home and were quartered in London one of the sights when the regiment marched out was to see Peter strutting at the head of the battalion till they passed the barrack gate, when the goose returned. Unhappily Peter's fate was unheroic. His end was ill in accord with his martial career, for he was run over and killed by a cab, and that not even a taxicab. It was a poor kind of an end for a bird with such a record.—London Telegraph.

Old English Laws About Buttons.

Buttons have engaged the attention of legislators even more frequently than hats. Five acts have been passed to protect the button industry of England, and some of these are still unrepealed. An act of George I. inflicts a penalty of 40 shillings on any person using or selling "buttons made of cloth, serge, drugget, frieze or camlet."

This law, says the London Daily Mail, was a source of intense annoyance to foreign visitors, and the author of "Le Parisien a Londres," a guide written in 1789, is careful to explain its provisions at considerable length. He adds, however, that foreigners "who are able to prove that their clothes were made in their own country escape the penalty when first summoned on the understanding that they change their buttons within twenty-four hours."

Lively Times In Billville.

"Well, sir," said the Billville citizen, "ef they ain't a power o' confusion in the skies after awhile I'll give it up!"

"What's the trouble?" he was asked.

"Well, over yander is Deacon Jones prayin' fer rain, an' jest 'cross the way is Elder Brown pertitionin' fer dry, an' the whole poperlation's crowdin' roun', bettin' which'll win. An' the high sheriff's done sarved notice to all of 'em to appear in court an' answer to the charge o' gamblin' in futures, an' he says he'll git enough cash out o' the gang to finish the artesian well an' paint the town hall."—Uncle Remus' Magazine.

Guarded His Beard.

As Sir Thomas More laid his head on the block he begged the executioner to wait a moment while he carefully placed his beard out of reach of the ax, for, he said, "it hath not committed treason," which reminds one of the story of Simon Lord Lovat, who the day before his execution on Tower hill bade the operator who shaved him be cautious not to cut his throat, as such an accident would cause disappointment to the gaping crowd on the morrow.—English Magazine.

Small Audience.

Bacon—Did you say the professor always counts ten before he speaks? Egbert—No; he only counted eight at yesterday's lecture.—Yonkers Statesman.

His Proof.

Mrs. Youngwife—What have you ever done to prove your love for me? Mr. Youngwife—Darling, I've contracted a lovely case of chronic dyspepsia.—Judge.

Remember you must die. Let this not startle you, but let it soften you while there is yet time to do some good in the world.

Microscopic Measurement.

The measurement of microscopic objects is done by rulings on glass, which are produced by wonderfully delicate machines. These rulings are constructed so as to accurately divide an inch or any other unit of measurement into any desired number of parts—as, for instance, one one-hundredth of an inch or one one-thousandth of an inch or even one ten-thousandth of an inch. The finest rulings thus far produced by any of the machines are at the rate of something like 200,000 to the inch. Some idea of the closeness of the ruled lines can be obtained from considering that a thousand such lines would occupy only the space included in the thickness of a sheet of ordinary writing paper.—New York American.

An Old Family.

Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, talking to a friend about the antiquity of his family, was told roughly that he was "a mere mushroom."

"How is that?" he asked indignantly.

"Why," said the other, "when I was in Wales a pedigree of a particular family was shown to me which filled more than five large parchment skins, and near the middle of it was a note in the margin, 'About this time the world was created.'"

The King Is Wrong.

"The king can do no wrong," quoted the wise guy.

"Oh, that's all rot!" retorted the simple mug, who had been up late the night before. "Suppose you were drawing to a straight and wanted either a deuce or a seven spot."—Philadelphia Record.

He Knew.

"Say, pa."

"Well, what is it?"

"Pa, what is alfalfa?"

"It's a slang term for whiskers, son," replied the city man as he resumed his novel.—Washington Herald.

What He Remembered.

"Who was the man in the iron mask?"

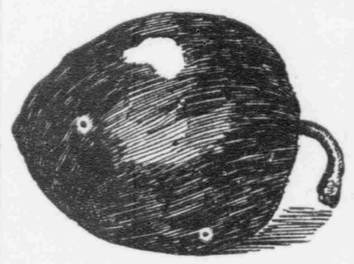
"I don't remember the catcher's name, but I can tell you who pitched."

HORTICULTURE

PUMPKIN-SQUASH HYBRID.

An Interesting Scientific Curiosity Which It Was Supposed Man Could Not Possibly Produce.

The squash shown in the picture grew on a vine produced by a seed from a Delicious squash that was grown near some pumpkin vines. The parent seed and fruit were just like the rest of the seed and squashes, but this particular seed produced a vine that had characteristics peculiar to both pumpkin and squash vines, the rounded vines of the squash with the spotted leaves of the pumpkin vine. But one fruit matured, and it had the shape and rind, also the color, of the squash, and the small hard stem of the pumpkin instead of the large soft



The Interesting Squash-Pumpkin Hybrid.

stem peculiar to the winter squashes. When cut open the flesh had the distinctive pumpkin odor, and the seeds were small yellowish straw colored instead of white and were thinner than squash seed. There were but fourteen seeds, most of which were sent to the Cornell experiment station. For some reason the seed failed to grow for the station people, and the seed that was kept produced three vines. These vines were in an isolated spot and were of extreme interest during the entire growing season. One vine, while apparently healthy, never grew higher than three or four inches, though it lived all summer and continued to grow slowly. The other vines made a vigorous growth. One resembled a pumpkin vine, while the other for the most part resembled the squash vines, though the fruit blossoms were hermaphrodite, and the pollen blossoms, though well formed, neither opened nor produced pollen.

This vine produced no fruit, but judging by the embryo they would have been quite pumpkin-like. The vine having the pumpkin vine characteristics had normal blossoms except that the male blossoms produced no pollen. One fruit was produced by this vine, and in shape and color was like the picture except it had a large, round stem. The seed from which these vines grew had been fertilized with pure squash pollen, yet the pumpkin characteristics persisted in the next generation. Squash pollen was supplied to the fruit blossoms on both the vines of the second generation, but the few seeds in the one squash that grew were entirely hollow, and a very interesting experiment came to an abrupt end.

Professor L. H. Bailey in his "Plant Breeding," speaking of the refusal of distinct species to cross, says, "For instance, if we apply the pollen of a Hubbard squash to the flower of a common field pumpkin there will simply be no result; the fruit will not form." Professor Bailey had much experience in crossing cucurbitaceous vines and wrote advisedly; but, given the proper conditions, the bees were able to produce a hybrid that baffled the skill of a painstaking scientist laboring to produce similar results.

DANGER IN POOR SEED.

Corn That Has Good Appearance Often Does Not Contain Qualities For Sprouting.

One of the incidental results of the corn shows held recently throughout the country was the discovery that a considerable amount of corn that looks good is really of poor seed quality. The fact should serve as a warning to corn growers, for the apparent meaning of the tests made is that much of the corn raised during last year is in such condition that it will not grow.

The corn show held in Kansas a short while ago brought about 150 samples of corn. After the prize winning samples had been separated from the rest two lots of forty ears each were taken at random from the remaining exhibits for a germination test, which was made under the direction of an expert.

In making the tests six grains were taken from different parts of each ear and placed in a tester till they sprouted or had time to sprout. These tests were made in duplicate in order to secure a thoroughly reliable result. In the first lot of forty ears the test showed that only 75 per cent of the corn was good, 25 per cent being worthless for seed. In the second lot of forty ears better results were obtained, only 15 per cent failing to grow, 85 per cent being good. The general average for the eighty ears was 80 per cent perfect.

Where the Profit Lies.

There is the most money in the long run in dairy by selling the cream or butter only and keeping the other products on the farm. Skimmilk is turned into money fast with pigs.

PREPARING SEED BED.

Success of Crop Depends Largely on Intelligently Handling Soil In Advance.

The importance of properly preparing the seed bed for corn cannot be too strongly emphasized, for the success of the crop depends to a very great extent upon the rapidity and vigor with which the seed starts into growth.

Corn gets a much better start when planted in a fine, mellow soil, rich in plant food and supplied with a moderate amount of moisture. The seed will not germinate readily if placed in coarse, lumpy soil.

If the corn is planted in a fine and mellow seed bed germination takes place quickly, and the young plants get plenty of food, because the roots come in actual contact with more of the fine earth particles, on the surface of which the moisture and plant food are found.

When the young plants are thus situated they are able to withstand adverse climatic conditions.

A very large proportion of corn this year will be grown on ground that was in corn last year, or, in other words, on cornstalk ground. It is in the management of this ground that some farmers fail to produce as good results as they desire.

The proper thing to do with cornstalk ground is to first cut the stalks with a stalk cutter and then disk the ground at the earliest opportunity as a preparation for plowing.

Corn as well as other grain requires a solid seed bed, which is made by cultivation after plowing. The main use of the disk and harrow is to compact the lower portion of the furrow slice and then throw loose soil on top in which the seed will find easy germination. While this is being done weeds are germinating, and by subsequent operations they are being killed, which, if left alone, will bother all summer long and rob the soil of much available plant food.

Some farmers intend to plant corn on clover sod that was manured a year ago and plowed last fall. And it is important to get on this sod as early as the ground is in proper condition and disk it thoroughly and keep on disking at intervals until it is time to plant corn.

It is not best to wait and let the grass grow up between the furrows or on sods that have not been properly turned over. The grass will do no good, but harm, and therefore the quicker the disking is done the better. By so doing capillary connection will be restored with the soil below and thus conserve moisture for the plant, which sometimes during the year it will most certainly need.

When corn is planted on oat or wheat stubble it should have been plowed in the fall, but if this has not been done follow precisely the same course that is applied on the stubble—disk first, then plow—then give the same treatment afterward.

Some think this too much work, but that depends upon the way one looks at it. If he is cultivating acres it probably is, but he is not cultivating acres, but corn, and it is much better to put the work usually put on eighty acres of land on forty and grow something else on the other forty.

Selecting Site For Garden.

In selecting a site for the garden it must be remembered that most vegetables require sunshine as well as plant food and moisture. Other things being equal, a southern exposure is preferable, as this gives a maximum amount of sunlight and will be favorable for the growth of early plants. Care should be taken to avoid a northern exposure or a site sheltered from the sun by buildings.

A New Method of Planting Tomatoes.

Instead of planting tomato seeds in a box, as most people do, cut a hole in a small potato, fill it with dirt and plant your seed in this, writes Vigne M. Carey of Grand Rapids, Wis., in Popular Mechanics.

The Tuber Family.

The potato plant, the tomato plant and the tobacco plant are closely allied, belonging to the same family. One has its tubers developed, the other its fruit and the third its leaves.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES

Plan to set out at least a few trees every spring.

It is important that remedies to kill bugs and prevent blight be applied before the bugs or blight show themselves.

You will get more fruit by spraying thoroughly and the quality will be such that you can sell more of it as first class fruit.

A moist soil, when kept in an unfrozen condition as long as possible, is the surest means to prevent winter killing of trees.

The holes for your new trees must be made larger and deep enough to receive the entire root system without crowding or cramping.

The drops of gum which exude from the roots of the peach trees show where the borer is. Persistent use of the wire is the safest remedy.

Many a man has been surprised at the effect of one load of barnyard manure scattered about under a tree. It gives new life and fruitfulness.

Good orchardists say that an orchard neglected for one year—that is, without spraying or pruning and cultivation—puts it back fully three years.